



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Research and
Special Programs
Administration**

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

AUG 6 2001

DOT-E 12122
(THIRD REVISION)

EXPIRATION DATE: July 31, 2002

(FOR RENEWAL, SEE 49 CFR § 107.109)

1. GRANTEE: Atlantic Research Corporation
Knoxville, TN

2. PURPOSE AND LIMITATIONS:

a. This exemption authorizes the manufacture, marking, sale and use of non-DOT specification pressure vessels for use as components of automobile vehicle safety systems. The pressure vessels charged with non-toxic, non-liquefied gases, or mixtures thereof are authorized for transportation in commerce subject to requirements and limitations herein. This exemption provides no relief from the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) other than as specifically stated herein.

b. FIVE YEAR TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZATION: This exemption authorizes transportation of the pressure vessels identified herein for up to five years from the date of manufacture. This exemption provides no certification of safety for end use environments and life cycles.

c. EXEMPTION SCOPE LIMITATIONS: This exemption only applies to a package when it is an article of commerce in transportation. The safety analyses performed in development of this exemption only considered the hazards and risks associated with transportation in commerce. The safety analyses did not consider the hazards and risks associated with consumer use, incorporation as a component of a vehicle or other device, or other uses not associated with transportation in commerce.

3. REGULATORY SYSTEM AFFECTED: 49 CFR Parts 106, 107 and 171-180.

AUG 6 2001

4. REGULATIONS FROM WHICH EXEMPTED: 49 CFR §§ 173.301(h), 173.302(a) and 175.3 in that a non-DOT specification cylinder is not authorized except as prescribed herein.
5. BASIS: This exemption is based on the application of Atlantic Research Corporation dated January 15, 2001 and additional information dated February 21, 2001, submitted in accordance with § 107.105 and the public proceeding thereon.
6. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS (49 CFR § 172.101):

Proper Shipping Name/ Hazardous Materials Description	Hazard Class/ Division	Identi- fication Number	Packing Group
Air bag inflators, compressed gas or Air bag modules, compressed gas or Seat-belt pretensioners, compressed gas	2.2	UN3353	N/A
Argon, compressed	2.2	UN1006	N/A

A vehicle safety system or component which contains a quantity of pyrotechnic materials must be classed and approved as provided for in § 173.56 of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR). If the pyrotechnic material augments the volume of the gas in the pressure vessel, or in any way enhances the performance of the compressed gas, the device must be tested in the same configuration as when shipped.

7. SAFETY CONTROL MEASURES:

a. PACKAGING - Packaging prescribed is a non-DOT specification cylindrical or toroidal pressure vessel meeting the following requirements:

(1) The maximum service pressure at 70°F may not exceed 4,500 psig. The minimum test pressure is the pressure of the contents at 200°F. The rated service pressure may not exceed 80 percent of the test pressure and the water volume of each pressure vessel may not exceed one liter.

(2) Material of construction must conform to all requirements of § 178.65(b), except that longitudinally welded cylinders are authorized, and the ladle check analysis maximum carbon content must not exceed 0.24.

(3) Manufacturing requirements must conform to all requirements of § 178.65(c).

(4) The minimum wall thickness must be such that the wall stress meets the requirements of § 178.65(d).

(5) Openings and attachments must conform to all requirements of § 178.65(e) except a sidewall opening as shown on Atlantic Research Corporation drawing BAO1772, Rev. N on file with the Office of Hazardous Materials Exemptions and Approvals is authorized.

(6) Each pressure vessel must be equipped with a pressure relief device designed to meet all the requirements for a rupture disk prescribed in the Compressed Gas Association (CGA) Pamphlet S-1.1. The pressure relief device must be capable of preventing rupture of the pressure vessel when subjected to fire test conducted in accordance with CGA Pamphlet C-14.

b. TESTING -

(1) Each pressure vessel must be tested as required in § 178.65(f) except that the hold time at test pressure specified in § 178.65(f)(1) may be limited to that which is adequate to ensure compliance with the requirements contained in § 178.65(f)(1)(i) and (ii). The requirement in § 178.65(f)(2)(iii) on the failure location does not apply to toroidal pressure vessels. Toroidal pressure vessels must not fail in the structural weld of the hemispheres that make up the device and the failure must occur at a gage pressure of at least 4 times the service pressure.

(2) The flattening test specified in § 178.65(g) is required.

(3) A representative vehicle safety system, packaged as it would be for shipment, must be activated and no materials other than non-toxic, non-flammable vapors or gases may be expelled from the package.

(4) Each longitudinal weld seam must be 100% radiographically inspected.

AUG 6 2001

c. MARKING -

Each pressure vessel must be durably marked as follows:

DOT-E 12122/aaaa¹
lot No. xxxxx²
Manufacturer's Name
The Pressure Vessel May Not Be Refilled

¹ Where aaaa represents the design service pressure (i.e. 4000 or 4500 psig)

² Where xxxxx is the lot number as appropriate.

NOTE: Each line of these markings may be placed without regard to location or order on the pressure vessel.

8. SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

a. In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph (b) of § 173.22a, persons may use the packaging authorized by this exemption for the transportation of the hazardous materials specified in paragraph 6, only in conformance with the terms of this exemption.

b. A person who is not a holder of this exemption, but receives a package covered by this exemption, may reoffer it for transportation provided no modifications or changes are made to the package and it is offered for transportation in conformance with this exemption and the HMR.

c. This exemption is limited to pressure vessels used as components of a vehicle safety system. The pressure vessels are excepted from the requirements of the HMR, Part 178 when the design has been certified by an Independent Inspection Agency, approved under § 173.300a as having met all the requirements of this exemption.

d. The Independent Inspection Agency's design certification must include test results and documents related to explosive classification and approval. A copy of the certification must be maintained at each facility where the vehicle safety system is manufactured and by the Independent Inspection Agency for a period of 15 years from the date of completion of the design certification.

e. A current copy of this exemption must be maintained at each facility where the package is manufactured under this exemption. It must be made available to a DOT representative upon request.

f. Atlantic Research Corporation must comply with all provisions of this exemption, and all other applicable requirements contained in the HMR, Parts 100-180. No modifications may be made to the pressure vessel, pyrotechnic components or production vehicle safety system which would affect the performance of the vehicle safety system or its compliance with the requirements of this exemption until such modifications have been reviewed, tested and certified by an Independent Inspector as meeting the requirements of this exemption.

g. Except when transported on passenger carrying aircraft, devices utilizing the non-DOT specification pressure vessel authorized herein are exempt from the requirements of 49 CFR Parts 100-180 when installed in a motor vehicle or in completed vehicle components such as steering columns or door panels.

h. Pressure vessels, components, and vehicle safety systems must be transported in strong outside packaging in accordance with § 173.301(k).

9. MODES OF TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZED: Motor vehicle, rail freight, cargo vessel, and cargo aircraft only.

This exemption is to serve as an authorization of The Competent Authority for the United States (CA-9812006) in accordance with the General Packing Instructions Part 3, Chapter 2 Paragraph 2.5 of the International Civil Aviation Organization Technical Instructions for the Safe Transportation of Dangerous Goods by Air (ICAO TI) and additionally meets the requirements of State Variation US 6. Pressure vessels or vehicle safety systems complying with this exemption are authorized to be shipped pursuant to Packaging Instruction 200 of ICAO TI.

10. MODAL REQUIREMENTS: A current copy of this exemption must be carried aboard each cargo vessel or aircraft or motor vehicle used to transport packages covered by this exemption. The shipper must furnish a current copy of this exemption to the air carrier before or at the time the shipment is tendered.

11. COMPLIANCE: Failure by a person to comply with any of the following may result in suspension or revocation of this exemption and penalties prescribed by the Federal hazardous materials transportation law, 49 U.S.C. 5101 et seq:

- o All terms and conditions prescribed in this exemption and the Hazardous Materials Regulations, Parts 171-180.

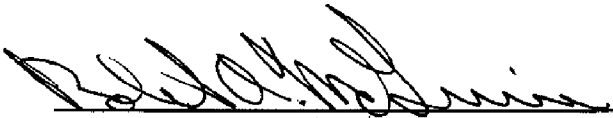
- o Registration required by § 107.601 et seq., when applicable.

Each "Hazmat employee", as defined in § 171.8, who performs a function subject to this exemption must receive training on the requirements and conditions of this exemption in addition to the training required by §§ 172.700 through 172.704.

No person may use or apply this exemption, including display of its number, when the exemption has expired or is otherwise no longer in effect.

12. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: The carrier is required to report any incident involving loss of packaging contents or packaging failure to the Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety (AAHMS) as soon as practicable. (Sections 171.15 and 171.16 apply to any activity undertaken under the authority of this exemption.) In addition, the holder(s) of this exemption must also inform the AAHMS, in writing, as soon as practicable of any incidents involving the package and shipments made under this exemption.

Issued at Washington, D.C.


Robert A. McGuire
Associate Administrator for
Hazardous Materials Safety

AUG 6 2001
(DATE)

Address all inquiries to: Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials Safety, Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation, Washington, D.C. 20590.
Attention: DHM-31.

The original of this exemption is on file at the above office. Photo reproductions and legible reductions of this exemption are permitted. Any alteration of this exemption is prohibited.

Copies of exemptions may be obtained from the AAHMS, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 7th Street, Washington, DC 20590-0001, Attention: Records Center, 202-366-5046.

PO: SStaniszewski